

REMARKS

Claims 2-3, 6, 9 and 12-13 have been cancelled without prejudice, previously pending claims 1, 4-5, 7-8, 10-11, 14-52 and newly added claims 53-70 are currently pending in this application. Of these, claims 1, 7, 10, 14 and 25 are independent. Claims 1-52 were previously pending in the subject application and have been examined on the merits, while claims 53-70 have been added with this amendment. No new matter has been added.

The subject matter of claims 1-52 have been rejected as follows:

- a) Claims 1-2, 12-13 and 19-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Scheibelhoffer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,670,561).
- b) Claims 1-2, 9-11, 19 and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Takahashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,234,466).
- c) Claims 1-2, 6, 8-9, 11-12, 15, 19-20 and 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 116666 as evidenced by Thomm et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,846,507) and Login (U.S. Patent No. 4,098,741).

Applicants thankfully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 3-5, 7, 10, 14 and 16-18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. In addition, the Examiner indicated that claims 25-52 are allowable over the closest prior art. Accordingly, solely to expedite prosecution and without acquiescing on the merits of the rejections, claims 7 and 10 have been rewritten in independent format and the limitations of claims 2-3, 6, 9 and 13 have been incorporated into

claims 1, 7, 10 and 14, respectively. Finally, new claims 53-70 have been added to conform to original claims 15, 17-24.

No fee is believed to be due with the filing of this *Response to Office Action*. However, if any fee is due, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional deficiencies or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-0540.

Respectfully submitted,

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